**KPO-116-A**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Niino et al. |
| Serial Number: | Unknown |
| Filed: | Concurrently herewith |
| Group Art Unit: | Unknown |
| Examiner: | Unknown |
| Confirmation Number: | Unknown |
| Title: | FATIGUE SAFETY FACTOR TESTING METHOD AND FATIGUE SAFETY FACTOR TESTING APPARATUS |

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER MPEP §609

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
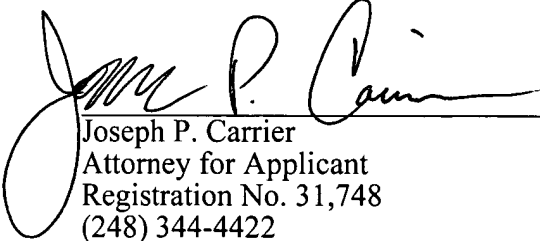Alexandria  VA  22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, §1.97, §1.98, and MPEP §609, applicant encloses copies of the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A for consideration by the Examiner.  The reference is discussed in paragraph [005] of the specification.

The listed reference is being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that it constitutes statutory prior art or contains matter which anticipates the present invention or which would render the same obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Carrier
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24101 Novi Road, Suite 100
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14 October 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate ET986050227US in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner For Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria  VA  22313-1450 on 14 October 2003.

Dated:14 October 2003
JPC/km
enclosures

Kathryn MacKenzie

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet | 1 | of | 1

**Complete if Known**

| Application Number | |
|---|---|
| Filing Date | |
| First Named Inventor | Niino et al. |
| Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | KPO-116-A |

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.[1] | Document Number — Number-Kind Code[2] (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.[1] | Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3] Number[4] Kind Code[5] (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T[6] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | JP 08-339396 | 12-24-1996 | Nippon Steel Corp | | xx |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. [1]Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2]See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. [3]Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4]For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5]Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. [6]Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. of abstract